

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5, and in so doing, the objections raised by the Examiner with respect to claims 3 and 4 were attended and the subject matter of these claims were incorporated into claim 1. Accordingly, it is believe that this rejection has been eliminated.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10 and 13 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Faizon (USP 6,254,186). Also, claims 8 and 11-12 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faizon (USP 6,254,186). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 8 of the Examiner's Office Action letter, the Examiner has indicated that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. As the Examiner will note, the subject matter of claims 2, 4 and 5 have been incorporated into claim 1 and correspondingly claims 2, 4, and 5 have been cancelled in the present application. Accordingly, since the allowable subject matter of claim 5 has been

incorporated into claim 1, it is now believed that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. In this connection, since claims 3 and 6-13 are either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1, it is believe that all the claims in the present application, that is claims 1, 3 and 6-13 are allowable and thus the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

#### Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$450.00 is attached hereto.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees

required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

  
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

JAK/lab  
0641-0251P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000